

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

WITH

CHRISTINE WALLACE &
DAVID F. WALLACE, JR.

PART II – DRIVING TOUR

AUGUST 26, 1991

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

INTERVIEWED BY JIM WILLIAMS

ORAL HISTORY #1991-26

This transcript corresponds to audiotapes DAV-AR #4388-4390

HARRY S TRUMAN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



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Christine Wallace, David Wallace, and Jim Williams reviewed the draft of this transcript. Their corrections were incorporated into this final transcript by Perky Beisel in summer 2000. A grant from Eastern National Park and Monument Association funded the transcription and final editing of this interview.

RESTRICTION

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ABSTRACT

Christine Wallace, sister-in-law of Bess W. Truman, and her son David F. Wallace, Jr., reveal in detail the inner workings of the extended Wallace family during the 1930s to early 1940s. For several years the Wallace siblings (Bess, George, Frank, and Fred) and their families lived together at 219 N. Delaware St. with their mother, Madge Gates Wallace. Here, the Wallaces take a driving tour of old Independence and comment about their memories of the Truman neighborhood and the Independence square area. Also included is a stop at Woodlawn Cemetery to view the Gates and Wallace family plots, including the grave of D. Frederick Wallace.

Driving Tour – Persons mentioned: Raymond Gard, Lawrence Comboy, Margo Wallace, Marian Wallace, Frank Wallace, Ellen Bunschu, Albert Bundschu, C.C. Bundschu, Sue Ogden Bailey, Betty Ogden Flora, Margaret Truman Daniel, Natalie Ott Wallace, D. Frederick Wallace, Madge Gates Wallace, Bess W. Truman, Harry S Truman, May Wallace, Roger Sermon, Vietta Garr, D. W. Cook, Blevins Davis, Ray Wills, Charlie Ross, Petey Childers, Mary Bostian, Marjorie Nicks, Linda King, Forrest Martin, Oscar King, David Willock Wallace, Russell Etzenhouser, Frank E. Gates, G. Walter Gates, George Porterfield Gates, Elizabeth Emery Gates, Tillie Gates, Myra Gates Wallace, T. B. Wallace, Maud L. Gates Wells, Carrie Stamper, Mary Albina Wallace, Benjamin F. Wallace, Virginia Willock Wallace, Nannie Willock Wallace, Thomas Wallace, Bill Carnes, Mize Peters, Sue Gentry, Rufus Burrus, Adelaide Twyman, Henry Wurtzel, Lavinia Records, Mary Charlton, Van Triplett, Lawrence Proctor, Paul Bischoff, John Major, Mary O'Reilly, Nellie Noland, Charles Kellogg, Harriet Allen Kellogg, Ray Stewart, Anna Jackson, and Millicent Gilpatrick.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW WITH
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PART II - DRIVING TOUR

HSTR INTERVIEW #1991-26

- WILLIAMS: This is the continuation of the oral history interview with Christine Wallace and David Wallace. It is the morning of August 26, 1991. We will be driving around the old section of Independence, talking about people and places that the Wallaces knew when they lived here in Independence. Driving the car is Jim Williams from the National Park Service, and Carol Dage, curator of Harry S Truman National Historic Site for the National Park Service, is also in the car. [Starting near 600 W. Maple Avenue]
- C. WALLACE: You mean everything we say is being recorded?
- D. WALLACE: I'll bet you're going to regret that . . . Dr. Gard, Mother.
- WILLIAMS: Dr. Gard?
- D. WALLACE: Or Comboy. Well, that's who lived there in 1948: Raymond Gard, Lawrence Comboy.
- C. WALLACE: Well, we weren't here in 1948.
- D. WALLACE: Presumably they were the same doctors.
- C. WALLACE: We were in . . .
- D. WALLACE: Mother! In 1938, or whenever I had my tonsils out.
- C. WALLACE: Well, you said 1948.
- WILLIAMS: They were here in 1948. Were they the same doctors?

C. WALLACE: My daughter was born in . . .

D. WALLACE: Mother! There!

C. WALLACE: Margo was born in 1938.

D. WALLACE: There! Tonsils.

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: In 1938. In 1948, the doctors' names I just gave you, presumably they were there ten years before, also.

C. WALLACE: Okay.

D. WALLACE: Okay, you understand what I'm saying?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: Were they the doctors?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Would you like to tell that story walking [about] over here?

D. WALLACE: No, because I don't remember if my sister had her tonsils out at the same time. Mother is not saying that.

C. WALLACE: Marian had her tonsils taken out at the same time you did in that building there, and Marian was carried over by her father, and David was carried over by the doctor.

D. WALLACE: Not over, back.

C. WALLACE: That backyard, through the 219 backyard and upstairs to their bedroom.

WILLIAMS: The same day?

C. WALLACE: The same day.

WILLIAMS: Just walked over, they did it, and came back?

C. WALLACE: They did the surgery and then took them over there to convalesce.

That's when Frank Wallace got the big tub and put ice in it and turned a fan on it—they were in the big bedroom over the living room—and turned the fan on to make the room cooler for the little ones.

WILLIAMS: And you were about four?

D. WALLACE: Probably five.

C. WALLACE: About five.

WILLIAMS: And Marian was two?

D. WALLACE: Two.

C. WALLACE: Two, yes.

WILLIAMS: Why did you have it at the same time?

C. WALLACE: Because the doctors thought they both should have them out and decided to do them both at the same time. I don't know, but I guess he didn't have anything else to do that day. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Did you fill them up with ice cream and all those things you have when your tonsils are out?

C. WALLACE: Yes. Not so much that day because they were still kind of . . . oh, I don't know, not in an ice cream spirit or whatever you want to say. [chuckling] I guess they were still pretty sore.

WILLIAMS: This was during the summertime, then?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: Was it ever!

WILLIAMS: Can you remember?

D. WALLACE: Some of the details.

C. WALLACE: Summertime, that's why we had the ice in the tub.

D. WALLACE: If you look at your weather things, you'll see that in those years it was particularly hot in the summers here and really cold in the winters.

C. WALLACE: I have all that information in his baby book. Jim, after I go home, I'll look in his baby book and see what I said then.

D. WALLACE: That's going to be a little hard since it's in Los Angeles.

C. WALLACE: It is not.

D. WALLACE: Sure is.

C. WALLACE: Oh, I did leave it in Los Angeles. Well, then, would you look it up and read it to me?

D. WALLACE: Well, unless I packed it—because I packed some of those books—I'll send it back.

WILLIAMS: While we're here we should talk about the Bundschus, the house where you're staying. Did you know them very well?

C. WALLACE: No, not this Bundschu. I knew Ellen Bundschu, who was C.C.'s—Bundschu Store—wife, and I knew Albert Bundschu, who was a friend of Fred's, and I can't remember his wife's name. But I knew them better than I knew this part of the Bundschu family.

WILLIAMS: Did you have much contact with the people on Maple Street?

C. WALLACE: No, but there is . . . I think it's that house there that there were two girls that would come and visit.

WILLIAMS: The Ogdens?

D. WALLACE: That's the name.

C. WALLACE: Ogdens? That was it. What were the girls' first names?

WILLIAMS: Sue and Betty, I think.

C. WALLACE: And they would play with Margaret, and then also the Allen girls.

WILLIAMS: I think their house was in the vacant lot.

C. WALLACE: Was that it?

WILLIAMS: Mrs. Allen said it burned down.

C. WALLACE: Yes, well, this doesn't quite look right, but it was over on that [north] side. They would come right . . . you know, their backyard and our backyard were just together. That's before we had a Secret Service house back there and a fence around everything, and that's where the big tree was back there, as I told you.

WILLIAMS: With the swing on it?

C. WALLACE: Yes, the swing, and later on a trapeze. That's where they put on these shows. Margaret and these girls, they'd put on these shows. I think that Margaret has told that story in some book.

WILLIAMS: We have some pictures, I think. So it was the Ogdens and the Allen girls.

C. WALLACE: Ogdens—that was it—and the Allens, yes.

WILLIAMS: Do you remember the Bush girls?

C. WALLACE: No, where did they live?

WILLIAMS: We'll see their house on Delaware. They lived next to the Choplins.

C. WALLACE: They never came out. I mean, that one little group, you see, their backyards were all more or less together.

D. WALLACE: That's the Presbyterian church?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

D. WALLACE: That's where Aunt Natalie went.

C. WALLACE: That's where Aunt Natalie went to church.

WILLIAMS: Where did you go to church?

D. WALLACE: The Catholic church, Saint Mary's.

C. WALLACE: Saint Mary's.

WILLIAMS: So you were Catholic?

C. WALLACE: I'm Catholic.

WILLIAMS: Did Fred . . . ?

C. WALLACE: He converted.

WILLIAMS: Natalie was the only one who went to the Presbyterian church?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: Frank Wallace went sometimes, and sometimes he went to the Episcopal, but he . . .

D. WALLACE: He was raised Episcopalian.

C. WALLACE: He didn't go by himself. I mean, he'd go with Natalie or stay home. Of course, Mrs. Wallace never set foot out of that house for much, other than taking a ride or going up to Platte City is about all she'd ever do.

D. WALLACE: Bess went to the Episcopal church.

C. WALLACE: I don't think she ever went to see her sister on Gladstone. Was it Gladstone? That's where Aunt Myra lived. Also, her husband's name was Wallace, but not kin to our Wallace. But I don't ever remember, not during my time with the family. As I told you, Helen would come to see her, but I don't remember Grandmother ever going there.

WILLIAMS: Then you moved before you went to school. You would have gone to school . . .

D. WALLACE: No, I went to Bryant.

C. WALLACE: He started school at Bryant.

WILLIAMS: This is the junior high [Palmer Junior High, at Maple and Pleasant]?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: So you didn't ever go to this . . .

D. WALLACE: No, but that's the new wing, yes. No, I left in the second grade.

WILLIAMS: What do you remember about the Memorial Building, anything?

C. WALLACE: No. But on up another block or so was that library. What is that? Is it still there or not?

WILLIAMS: No, the public library has moved out by the Truman Library.

C. WALLACE: Yes, but there was a public library right up the street from us [northeast corner of Osage and Maple].

WILLIAMS: This is Spring. There's a filling station and the Methodist . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, that's been here for a long time. Mother, I just saw a sign for Santa Caligon. Do you want to recall that and Dad and everything?

C. WALLACE: Santa Caligon?

WILLIAMS: That's coming up this weekend.

D. WALLACE: That's the festival, the trails festival.

WILLIAMS: Santa Caligon Days.

C. WALLACE: I know, but I don't think they did anything when I was living here.

D. WALLACE: I don't know, you said Dad grew a beard and the whole thing. You told me all of that.

WILLIAMS: I heard that people would dress up.

C. WALLACE: I remember Fred growing a beard, but I have forgotten what it was for,

but it was probably for that. Do you happen to remember, David, who Aunt B. and Uncle Harry knew, a woman that worked in this library that was right up Van Horn?

D. WALLACE: No, I don't know who that was.

C. WALLACE: I'll ask Aunt May when I see her.

D. WALLACE: Well, don't try and pull too much out of her, because she isn't going to remember much. We'll be lucky if she remembers us.

C. WALLACE: Oh, she will.

D. WALLACE: Well, don't count on it.

C. WALLACE: Well, she's only ninety-six.

D. WALLACE: Don't count on it, Mother.

WILLIAMS: As we go up east here on Maple, what's different?

C. WALLACE: Everything. What was there where that vacant lot is?

D. WALLACE: Now, that was there before . . . I don't know, I remember it's been a vacant lot for a long, long time. Roger Sermon's store was right here, wasn't it?

C. WALLACE: Oh, yes.

WILLIAMS: Here on the north?

D. WALLACE: Yes, one of these stores.

WILLIAMS: It was a grocery store?

C. WALLACE: What was his partner's name? Sermon and . . . ?

D. WALLACE: Right there, the jewelry store or one of these stores along here was Sermon's.

C. WALLACE: Who was in that store with him? Sermon and . . . ?

D. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Is it where you'd shop?

C. WALLACE: Yes. Oh, there's the courthouse. That's the one Fred helped design.

D. WALLACE: He did design it.

C. WALLACE: Well, there's another group, it was on the plaque, who all did it.

D. WALLACE: See, this is all new. This has all been taken down.

C. WALLACE: Roger Sermon and . . . I wish I could remember his name.

WILLIAMS: It might be in that book [Cook and Sermon at 212 W. Maple].

C. WALLACE: See all these little specialty stores. I don't remember them.

D. WALLACE: Well, none of this is real, you know, anymore.

C. WALLACE: Well, wasn't that Bundschu's over there?

D. WALLACE: That was the drugstore right there. Well, no, that right there, when Vietta [Garr] quit, wasn't that where she went to work?

C. WALLACE: I don't know, but there's Bundschu's.

D. WALLACE: Yes, you do Mother. Let's finish this. We know where Bundschu's is. When Vietta quit, where did she go to work?

WILLIAMS: Was it the Crown Drugstore?

C. WALLACE: Crown.

WILLIAMS: And that was around . . . which way?

D. WALLACE: It was either that one or it was one of the others.

C. WALLACE: And who was the head of Crown?

D. WALLACE: Did she work here in town or did she go into Kansas City, Mother?

C. WALLACE: No, she worked here in town.

D. WALLACE: Yes, so that's where she was, right there on the corner [northwest corner

of Maple and Main].

C. WALLACE: But who ran the Crown Drugstore? It was a good friend of Uncle Harry's.

D. WALLACE: I don't know. Are we on the square now?

C. WALLACE: Now, they've put all those retaining walls up since I've been here, with the flowers. That's new.

WILLIAMS: What did it used to look like?

C. WALLACE: Just plain grass.

D. WALLACE: There wasn't any setback or anything like that.

C. WALLACE: And none of this cement work. This makes it look nice.

WILLIAMS: Did it slope down from the courthouse?

C. WALLACE: Oh, what was his name?

D. WALLACE: Mother, we'll find that, don't worry.

WILLIAMS: Cook. D. W. Cook and Sermon.

C. WALLACE: Cook and Sermon.

WILLIAMS: Right, and you did your grocery shopping there.

C. WALLACE: Mrs. Wallace did; she did it on the phone.

D. WALLACE: Just called up and ordered it over the phone. And they bricked-up the windows at Bundschu's.

C. WALLACE: Yes. Is that empty now, Jim?

WILLIAMS: I think there are offices in there. Is this where you did most of the department store shopping?

C. WALLACE: Yes, it was where we'd always come up to town. You could walk up. And where was the picture show? We must have passed the corner

where it would have been.

D. WALLACE: Well, it's been remodeled. It looks like frontier time.

WILLIAMS: And what was here on the south side of the square?

D. WALLACE: Basically the same buildings that are there now, only in different guise.

C. WALLACE: Just about like . . . they looked the way it is.

D. WALLACE: And the same cornices and all that sort of stuff; it's just different stuff.

WILLIAMS: I've heard that way back when there were like thirteen saloons around the square.

D. WALLACE: No, that's a long, long time ago. That's 1850, 1860.

C. WALLACE: No, that was before my time. On one of those panels [on the courthouse] is . . .

D. WALLACE: Yes, the one on the right.

C. WALLACE: Yes, your father's name is on that. And the other, there was an architectural firm . . .

D. WALLACE: It says right at the bottom on the right, Mother, the right panel on the right bottom: Simpson and Wallace.

WILLIAMS: How did he get involved in the . . .

C. WALLACE: He was an architect.

D. WALLACE: How did he get involved?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Did it have anything to do with Harry being presiding judge?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. They kept those things to themselves.

D. WALLACE: Well, Mother, it wasn't a lightning bolt, was it?

C. WALLACE: Well, he worked on it trying to get it.

D. WALLACE: He did?

C. WALLACE: Yes, like all architects do. Then he and Keene and Simpson and . . .

D. WALLACE: I just said Simpson, right there. Something and Simpson and . . .

C. WALLACE: Keene and Simpson.

D. WALLACE: . . . Fred Wallace, right there.

C. WALLACE: And he knew them, and they just got together on it.

WILLIAMS: Was that a pretty good job to get?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: How long did he work on it?

C. WALLACE: Oh, I don't remember, David, the time.

D. WALLACE: I mean, like a year? Like a summer and a winter, or do you remember?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't even remember when it was built. Of course, this type of architecture Fred liked.

WILLIAMS: I've heard it's modeled after Williamsburg. He liked that?

C. WALLACE: Yes, he liked that colonial type of architecture.

WILLIAMS: Do you not like that? You're kind of . . .

C. WALLACE: Oh, I'm very fond of it. I like it. I think it's pretty, and I think it's very nice for Independence with all its history.

WILLIAMS: Was there a dedication ceremony?

C. WALLACE: That I don't remember. There must have been. Yes, I'm sure there was.

WILLIAMS: Now, yesterday we mentioned the Chrisman-Sawyer Bank.

D. WALLACE: Yes, it was just a little, yellow-brick building.

WILLIAMS: Which bank was the family bank?

C. WALLACE: Well, Fred and I banked at Chrisman-Sawyer.

D. WALLACE: I still have my savings book, found it the other day. Nothing in it, or they'd owe me a lot of money. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: Where was the post office back then?

C. WALLACE: Somewhere along here [on Lexington west of Liberty].

D. WALLACE: It's the same place that it is now, it was just a different building. It was right there, and it was very much a gray stone, fake, Greek/Roman/government building, probably a little better looking than the one that's there now, which is sort of the nadir of 1960's government architecture.

C. WALLACE: I think that's kind of interesting, that one there, don't you?

WILLIAMS: It's an LBJ building.

C. WALLACE: I like that building.

D. WALLACE: Independence has never bothered with anything like zoning, you know.

WILLIAMS: Would you go to Kansas City much to shop?

C. WALLACE: Yes, we went every so often. We'd drive in. But Fred had his office in Kansas City, and they had what they called a . . . Well, this man would buy up old, big cars, and that's what they would take—I mean, so much a ride, and he'd take them in. In a certain place in Kansas City, a certain time, he would pick them up and bring them back.

D. WALLACE: The only way to get in was Van Horn all the way in and Van Horn all the way out, wasn't it, Mother?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: None of the freeways or anything like that.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever ride the streetcars?

C. WALLACE: No, they had gone by the time I was here.

D. WALLACE: On Van Horn?

WILLIAMS: Now, we're going west on Lexington, past the Presbyterian church again from this side.

C. WALLACE: Jitney. That's what they call it. It was a jitney service into Kansas City, those cars. They had an old car with a jump seat, you know. They tried to get one of those big old seven-passenger cars, and that's what they would ride. Fred would always take the jitney, and he'd get it up here on the square somewhere.

WILLIAMS: William Chrisman High School. Does it look the same?

C. WALLACE: This one does, this part of the building does. I don't know why.

D. WALLACE: That part wasn't there then.

C. WALLACE: They've enlarged it a lot, haven't they?

D. WALLACE: That's the filling station where everybody had all their cars done right there.

WILLIAMS: So that's at Maple and [Union].

D. WALLACE: Yes, and it was a . . . whatever the flying red horse [was] . . .

WILLIAMS: Mobil.

D. WALLACE: Mobil. We'll look up the name of the guy, because it was the same guy for years who did everything on everybody's car. That's where they just took them.

C. WALLACE: You know I told you that Blevins Davis taught here at the . . .

D. WALLACE: No, you said he was principal and taught English.

C. WALLACE: He was principal for a while and he taught English. Then he'd come

down to 219 [North Delaware] at noon and eat lunch.

WILLIAMS: I didn't know that.

D. WALLACE: In the kitchen or where, Mother? He just ate in the kitchen where everybody else ate, basically?

C. WALLACE: Well, in the summertime they'd go out on the back porch and eat.

D. WALLACE: And eat on the back porch.

WILLIAMS: That's not right. That's on Union, this is . . .

D. WALLACE: This is Union?

WILLIAMS: No, we're on Truman, I think. [looking at maps] Ray Wills.

D. WALLACE: Yes, Ray Wills's service station.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yes, I remember that now.

D. WALLACE: How do you get all that? From the county abstracts?

WILLIAMS: It's the city directory.

D. WALLACE: Yes, Ray Wills.

WILLIAMS: So you'd always take your car to the Mobil station and he'd . . .

C. WALLACE: Well, to Mr. Wills.

WILLIAMS: And you had the Fords?

D. WALLACE: We had a '39 Ford.

C. WALLACE: Yes, when we were first married he bought a Ford . . . when you put the top . . . Oh, what do you call it?

D. WALLACE: Convertible, Mother. It was a Chevy convertible.

C. WALLACE: A Chevy convertible, it was yellow, and then later on it was traded for a Ford.

D. WALLACE: They kept the '39 Ford until we bought a '49 Ford.

WILLIAMS: How could you afford a convertible in the Depression years?

C. WALLACE: Oh, he got a good buy. I don't know. We bought it right after we were married. He had to have transportation. Prior to that, whenever he'd come and see me before we were married, he used Harry and Bess's car.

D. WALLACE: Which were endless Chryslers.

C. WALLACE: Well, that wasn't a Chrysler in those days. I don't know what it was. It was just a small car.

D. WALLACE: Really?

WILLIAMS: I think they had some Dodges.

C. WALLACE: I think it was a Dodge.

WILLIAMS: Some of those two-door coupe things.

D. WALLACE: Frank had a '36 or a '39 Chevy for years, and every time I'd come back he'd go for a ride in one of those awful mohair seat jobbies like the Ford was, you know, the skin of a mouse. May had a big old Hudson, and George drove a county highway department car, which changed periodically.

C. WALLACE: He worked for the county.

D. WALLACE: That was definitely the fix in there, you understand?

WILLIAMS: George?

D. WALLACE: Oh, yes.

WILLIAMS: So everybody knew how to drive?

C. WALLACE: No, no, no. Natalie never drove.

WILLIAMS: Natalie never? And Mrs. Wallace, Madge Wallace?

D. WALLACE: No, never.

C. WALLACE: Mrs. Wallace, Sr., didn't, and neither did Natalie. Frank drove, May drove, George drove, I drove, Fred drove. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: How did Natalie get around, like to all the bridge club things?

C. WALLACE: On her feet, or somebody . . .

D. WALLACE: [Somebody] would pick her up? Why did she never learn to drive, do you remember?

C. WALLACE: I guess she didn't want to.

D. WALLACE: Vietta didn't drive, either.

C. WALLACE: No. We used to take her home every now and then after work.

WILLIAMS: Was Natalie too small to drive?

C. WALLACE: No, she just never wanted to.

D. WALLACE: No, she wasn't as small as you think she was, but she was small.

C. WALLACE: They all belonged to the same bridge club, Bess and May and Natalie, so, when May and Bess went, they'd take Natalie, too.

WILLIAMS: Over on our left, on the south, is the new RLDS Temple.

C. WALLACE: Yes, I was looking at it.

D. WALLACE: What was there?

WILLIAMS: As long as I've been here it's been a parking lot for the auditorium.

D. WALLACE: Yes. They still do the *Messiah* every Christmas, I guess, in the big auditorium?

C. WALLACE: Well, where is the auditorium?

D. WALLACE: Right there, Mother.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yes, there it is.

D. WALLACE: And we'd go to that periodically.

WILLIAMS: So it was here?

D. WALLACE: And they still do it every Christmas. And that's Center Stake right there.

C. WALLACE: And that's holy ground there, isn't it?

WILLIAMS: So how much did you have to do with the Mormons and the RLDS?

D. WALLACE: Absolutely nothing.

C. WALLACE: Nothing. I was just telling . . . what's her name, where we were? Peg?

That when David was a baby I had this woman come and help me. Her name was Pauline.

D. WALLACE: At the house, yes.

C. WALLACE: And she'd come and help with taking care of him, and she belonged to the . . . I don't know whether it was the RLDS . . .

D. WALLACE: Yes, it was this here.

C. WALLACE: Five dollars a week.

D. WALLACE: Now, did she live in the house?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: What was her name?

C. WALLACE: Pauline.

WILLIAMS: It was a young girl?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: There is a picture with me and either Pauline or her successor. What was her successor's name?

C. WALLACE: Katherine.

D. WALLACE: Katherine lived in the house.

C. WALLACE: She lived in the house, but I didn't have her until after I had Marian.

WILLIAMS: Oh, I don't think we knew that.

D. WALLACE: She lived upstairs in that room across the street across from Margaret.

C. WALLACE: She lived in the room where you said Uncle Harry took his naps.

D. WALLACE: That was sort of a rotating guest room. Because after we moved to Denver in '42, I started coming back and spending the summers here in '45 because of the polio scare.

C. WALLACE: Yes, it was so bad that we had to send him . . .

D. WALLACE: It was terrible in Denver, and I don't know why they decided it was better here, which of course it wasn't.

C. WALLACE: Look at how they've done all that planting.

D. WALLACE: But I was furious because I wanted to go swimming . . . I don't know if it's still over there on that street, the big one that used to come down here?

WILLIAMS: Chrisman?

D. WALLACE: Yes, and they wouldn't let me.

C. WALLACE: There's the station.

D. WALLACE: And that was the summers of '45 and '46, '47 . . . It may have been '46, '47, and '48. I was here all summer, and I stayed in the room upstairs, with a fan at the bottom of the bed.

C. WALLACE: I can't understand why we sent you here, and yet Marian was kept at home.

D. WALLACE: I don't know. This is primarily memorable for all of us, from after we moved to Denver rather than before, because most of the time we took . . . Well, half of the time we would take the Eagle back and forth, the

Missouri Pacific Eagle, and I was always terrified that it wouldn't stop long enough for us to get on. Because it literally stopped thirty seconds, and you were on and it pulled right out.

C. WALLACE: Do you remember—you probably might not—when we took the train to Denver and Marian screamed? I think the whole town heard her. She was so petrified of that train.

D. WALLACE: Well, it's a big thing that comes in here, you know, in this little station.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and it's the old-fashioned train.

D. WALLACE: No, it wasn't, it was a diesel. It was a streamliner, Mother, the Missouri Pacific Eagle. Remember?

C. WALLACE: Yes, all right. That's right. Yes, I remember, but it scared her.

WILLIAMS: Did you fly much back then?

C. WALLACE: No. We flew to Washington after . . .

D. WALLACE: We also flew a couple of times here on DC-3's.

WILLIAMS: Into downtown?

D. WALLACE: Into downtown. But mostly we either drove . . .

C. WALLACE: We drove. Fred would come home . . .

D. WALLACE: Five hundred and fifty miles. It's not bad.

C. WALLACE: Yes, we came every Christmas when they were here.

D. WALLACE: And I in the summer.

C. WALLACE: And David in the summer. He'd come home from work, and I'd always have it all ready to go the next morning. Well, I finally learned, I was ready to go at any minute and said, "Well, we're leaving now," at about eight o'clock. I'd take all the toys and everything that Santa Claus was

to bring. He even shipped Marian's bicycle back when she wanted a bicycle from Santa Claus. [chuckling] And it was funny, though. I mean, it was a nice drive and everything. Then we left Independence to go home to Denver. The weather would be sunny and nice. Just let us get out of town for a couple miles, and the worst snowstorm I have ever seen in my life!

D. WALLACE: Well, that was in '49, Mother. That wasn't every time.

C. WALLACE: Well, I'll bet we'd either have rain or something, but the snowstorm was just terrible. There was a truck ahead of us. I'm sure that if the truck went off the road we would, too, because we followed that light. We got into Aurora and Fred stopped the car at a drugstore and went and called the family, because they were frantic. Here were all these bulletins that this awful snowstorm and so forth . . .

D. WALLACE: That was in 1949 and we were in the new Ford then, the blue Ford.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and Bess and Margaret were getting ready to take the train to Washington, and they weren't going to go until they knew where we were. So Fred called them and said, "Well, we're in Aurora." Frank Wallace got on the phone, and he said, "How long will it take you to get home?" He said, "Oh, about thirty minutes, probably." It wasn't too bad in town. So then Bess and Margaret got in a hurry and came on down here and made the train back.

WILLIAMS: Would the Trumans meet you at the station here?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: And see you off?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: Yes, always.

D. WALLACE: The whole big thing, and Frank and everybody came to the station.

C. WALLACE: All but Mrs. Wallace.

WILLIAMS: They all came down? Several cars?

C. WALLACE: Yes, but not Mrs. Wallace, no.

D. WALLACE: That certainly is a badly maintained right-of-way. Every track was . . .
Did you notice that? Every one of them. It makes for a rocky ride. No,
I remember this very well. Railway express right down there on this end
of the station.

WILLIAMS: Here comes the train.

D. WALLACE: Oh, yes, there it is.

WILLIAMS: That may be the Amtrak.

D. WALLACE: Oh, that's freight.

C. WALLACE: Why do they need so many engines?

WILLIAMS: Probably pulling coal out from Wyoming.

C. WALLACE: Or oil.

D. WALLACE: What's that street that goes over the tracks there?

C. WALLACE: Where the viaduct . . .

WILLIAMS: Lexington, I think.

D. WALLACE: So then it was up about a block that there was the swimming thing here.
I was furious. Basically, I mean, it's pretty boring to spend all that time
just talking to Grandmother all day long. I had a very boring childhood.
I didn't have to have it if I didn't want it, I guess. But that's all been

cleared out a lot up there.

WILLIAMS: Did you go much over into this neighborhood to the west?

D. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Down to . . . what's it called, Englewood, that shopping area?

C. WALLACE: We, as a rule, would walk uptown to do our shopping, and as far as groceries, they were delivered. Boy, that's a long freight, isn't it? I kind of miss trains.

D. WALLACE: You're not the only one. So then the mill is right over there?

WILLIAMS: Right. And we'll be going by where the Swope mansion was.

C. WALLACE: It's too bad they tore that down.

D. WALLACE: Why did they? Is that RLDS that bought the land?

WILLIAMS: Right, I think this is all their land.

D. WALLACE: There was something about that that Mary Paxton told me. I forget what it was. I've got to find that tape for you, because she did the whole . . . everything you . . . Just call and remind me sometime, because I know the boxes that it will be in.

WILLIAMS: Was there always an Allis-Chalmers plant here?

D. WALLACE: Yes, I don't know if it was Allis-Chalmers, but there was always this sort of stuff down here. There was much more farming around here than there is now.

C. WALLACE: It's kind of junky now. Now, over here on the left is where the Swope place was.

WILLIAMS: There, where the bandstands are?

D. WALLACE: Yes, at the top of the hill.

C. WALLACE: Do they have that whole story about the Swopes in your history?

D. WALLACE: Well, that isn't really germane to the house.

WILLIAMS: I think it's in the Independence history books.

C. WALLACE: Well, one of the girls there was a real good friend of Bess's when she was a young lady, we would say.

D. WALLACE: Oh, really? One of the daughters?

C. WALLACE: Yes, and she'd go to the Swope place. Now, this is just what I have read in their history: they had a ballroom, and they'd have dances and so forth.

WILLIAMS: Would people still talk about the Swope murders?

C. WALLACE: Not too much. Not as much as you think they would.

D. WALLACE: It doesn't surprise me at all. Those things don't happen. This is an RLDS campground.

WILLIAMS: They may be here for that pageant. I'm not sure. Independence . . . getting run out of the town.

C. WALLACE: Those trees, look how pretty that tree is!

D. WALLACE: Why did we move to Denver, Mother?

C. WALLACE: It was during the war, and Dad was with the War Production Board and was transferred.

WILLIAMS: That explains that.

D. WALLACE: Well, there's the mill.

WILLIAMS: Well, the mill was still the family business when you . . .

C. WALLACE: Well, as far as Frank Wallace is concerned.

D. WALLACE: And Grandmother.

C. WALLACE: And Grandmother. She got a certain sum from it.

D. WALLACE: Yes, and he ran it.

C. WALLACE: He and Waggoner Gates . . . the Waggoners, some of the Waggoners were in with it.

WILLIAMS: Would you be down here very much?

C. WALLACE: No, we never came down here.

WILLIAMS: Not as a curious youngster?

D. WALLACE: Once in a while.

C. WALLACE: Frank Wallace was with the mill, and then he was with the ice plant.

D. WALLACE: Frank?

C. WALLACE: Frank Wallace.

D. WALLACE: He wasn't with the ice plant.

C. WALLACE: He sure was. Where did he get the ice when you had your tonsils out?

D. WALLACE: He said George.

C. WALLACE: No, I thought he said Frank.

D. WALLACE: No, you said George yesterday. He was with the mill until he retired.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and with the ice plant then, too. Now, what he did with the ice plant, I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Did George or Bess get any money from the mill?

C. WALLACE: That I don't know.

WILLIAMS: And your family didn't?

C. WALLACE: No, Fred didn't.

WILLIAMS: So Fred didn't have any shares?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Is that, we presume, where Madge got most of her money through the years to live?

C. WALLACE: No, she got her . . . Well, the story of the house is that it was built when Mrs. Wallace was four years old, and her parents lived in it with the family. Then, when she married their father, they lived down the street on Delaware Street next to the . . . What was that family I told you that lived next door? It started with a P. Proctors. Is that it, Proctors? And I must have a funny story they used to tell about one of the Proctor boys who would walk in his sleep. I don't remember that. I wish I could remember that story. It was funny. Anyway, then after their father died, she moved back with her parents, and she lived there. Then, when the parents died, the house was left to Mrs. Wallace, Myra, Maud, and I think there was a boy. Wasn't there a son that lived at the Springs, Fred, or Frank, or something? It was a family name, I think it was. Look at this. Now, whose house is that? I like this.

WILLIAMS: This is Bess's birthplace, this house here on Ruby. Were you ever in this part of town much?

C. WALLACE: Bess was born there?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: I thought she was born in 219. Ruby? Yes, they did live on Ruby. That's right, yes, and their house was left to the girls, okay? So then Mrs. Wallace bought Myra's share and Maud's share, and anybody else . . . Wasn't there a boy?

WILLIAMS: There was Frank and then there was Walter. One lived out in Portland,

Oregon.

C. WALLACE: Yes, that's G. Walter, and then the other one lived down in Colorado Springs. Anyway, if they were alive, whatever . . . I know G. Walter was, because he used to come back every now and then, and we'd see him. And that's how she got the house.

D. WALLACE: Well, dear, that wasn't the question.

C. WALLACE: I know. Now, what she used to live on, I don't know.

D. WALLACE: It didn't come from the mill.

WILLIAMS: She was a widow for fifty years, and it seems like . . .

C. WALLACE: She must have gotten something from the mill, because that would be the only source that she would have.

D. WALLACE: When you all lived at the house, how did you all split up household expenses?

C. WALLACE: Fred gave his mother so much every month.

D. WALLACE: And that was for food, too?

C. WALLACE: Yes, and Bess's arrangement with her mother I don't know.

D. WALLACE: Oh, I'm sure it was all the same, you know. They split it all up. You don't remember how much it was?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: That would be neat to know. I mean, that would certainly give you a real handle on the costs of running a big house in the 1930s. Do you remember how much they paid Vietta?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: That shouldn't be hard to find.

C. WALLACE: That was out of Mrs. Truman's business and Grandma's.

D. WALLACE: No, Grandmother paid it.

C. WALLACE: Well, Bess helped her mother out a lot, I think.

D. WALLACE: I think it was a case of genteel semi-poverty, you know. She had the house and, I mean, if you didn't have a big income you didn't really have any taxes to pay, and help was cheap, and everybody was living together. But whether it started for that reason or not would be very interesting to figure out. If it started as a reason to help her out by sharing the expenses, that may have been why it all started.

WILLIAMS: Well, she certainly didn't need the big house all by herself.

D. WALLACE: No.

C. WALLACE: No, but she loved it. She never wanted to leave it.

WILLIAMS: We're back on Main Street, up near the courthouse again. I thought we could stop and you could look into our ticket center and see the slide program of the Trumans, and you all, too.

D. WALLACE: That would be wonderful.

WILLIAMS: Get an idea of what the visitors who come to the home have to do before they get tickets.

D. WALLACE: So they can't just go to the home? They've got to come here and buy the tickets, and then get down there on their own?

WILLIAMS: Yes, they have a certain time.

C. WALLACE: What is that store?

D. WALLACE: The movie house is probably the same one that was there.

C. WALLACE: [unintelligible] is about the only store they have here in town.

D. WALLACE: But this is the main drugstore, and then there was a smaller drugstore on this corner, too. Do you remember which this one was? If this was Crown, what was that, Mother?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember, dear.

D. WALLACE: Well, what were some of the drugstore names at the time?

C. WALLACE: I haven't the slightest idea.

D. WALLACE: Oh, look here. If I just use my brain and realize this history genius has done everything.

WILLIAMS: If you can figure it out in there.

C. WALLACE: Now where are we? We're at Truman Road and what?

WILLIAMS: Main. This is Main and that's Truman.

C. WALLACE: Well, I know I sound like a broken record. Now, where was that library I keep talking about?

D. WALLACE: Crown was on that corner; Katz was on this corner. So it was Katz that Vietta went to work for.

C. WALLACE: Katz, it was.

D. WALLACE: Katz Drugstore was the one on this corner and Crown was the little one on this corner.

WILLIAMS: So Katz was at 201.

D. WALLACE: That's the movie house where the . . . No, the movie house then was on the other . . .

C. WALLACE: It was down the street.

D. WALLACE: Yes, but that movie house now is where the beauty salon and the cleaners and Royal . . .

WILLIAMS: That's right here.

D. WALLACE: No, I'm looking here.

WILLIAMS: We're right here.

D. WALLACE: We're right here? Oh. Oh, I see. Well, then what I'm looking at is this street.

WILLIAMS: Maple?

D. WALLACE: So Woolworth's was where the movie house is now.

WILLIAMS: Woolworth's was in this block.

D. WALLACE: That right over there, on the north side of the street.

WILLIAMS: Was that the main dime store?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: What kinds of things would you buy there?

C. WALLACE: Oh, they had pretty good things, just like the dime stores are today, only a lot cheaper.

WILLIAMS: They were actually dime stores, huh?

C. WALLACE: Yes, they were. They weren't all these . . . like you go into a dime store now and it's just like going in a department store. No, it was just a regular, good old dime store.

D. WALLACE: No, there were two dime stores. There was Woolworth's and then there was Kresge's on the corner up here.

C. WALLACE: Kresge's.

WILLIAMS: That was a 25-cent to a dollar store.

D. WALLACE: Yes, and that literally was true.

WILLIAMS: So dime store were little things?

C. WALLACE: Yes, you could buy shoelaces and some cosmetics, if you wanted those kind, and school supplies for the kids.

D. WALLACE: What was Bradley Motors' mark, what cars?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

WILLIAMS: Where would you get your hair done?

C. WALLACE: In the bathroom. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: You didn't go to the beauty parlor?

C. WALLACE: No, but . . .

D. WALLACE: Bess did.

C. WALLACE: Bess did, and Natalie did.

D. WALLACE: That's why their hair was always blue—literally, always bright blue, the two of them.

C. WALLACE: Well, she changed it when Harry and Margaret said she was trying to match her hair to her eyes. She had such pretty blue eyes. [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: Where did they go, Mother? What beauty shop?

C. WALLACE: I never went to it, so I never paid any attention. It was up . . .

D. WALLACE: It was up here on the square.

C. WALLACE: Well, they walked up. Everybody walked up to the square. What was it, four blocks?

D. WALLACE: Oh, yes, and on the south side of the square was Brown Drug. Was that still there then, Mother? Singer Sewing Machine, Bunting Hardware.

C. WALLACE: I don't know, David. I can't remember.

D. WALLACE: Penney's was on the south side of the square. Westward Ho is new; that wasn't there then. Cochran Music, First National Bank, and then

Chrisman-Sawyer on the far corner.

WILLIAMS: Tasty Ice Cream Store. Did you ever go there?

C. WALLACE: No, we went to Raytown.

WILLIAMS: Where would you get shoes?

C. WALLACE: In Kansas City, as a rule.

WILLIAMS: Not here?

C. WALLACE: No, they bought real stuff. Bundschu's they went to like people go to Pic 'N Save now, right? Their underwear and stockings and what . . .

C. WALLACE: Yes, if you needed something like that.

D. WALLACE: But real clothes you went to Kansas City for.

C. WALLACE: You went to Kansas City.

WILLIAMS: Which stores down there?

C. WALLACE: Oh, we'd go to Harzfeld's and they go . . . Where was it? Chasnoff's. That's where a friend . . . somebody lived up Truman Road, up around where I'm talking about that library. That's where Aunt Nat's aunt lived who raised her. Aunt Nat had a sister, and I think when one of them was born they lost their mother. And an aunt took one sister and an aunt took Natalie, and the one that took Natalie lived up this street. The sister moved to Oklahoma. Remember little Natalie Ott? No, Natalie something or other that lived . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, Ott, but they weren't both named Natalie.

C. WALLACE: No, her sister had a daughter, and they called her Little Natalie. I don't know what her name was.

D. WALLACE: But what was her sister's name?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember.

D. WALLACE: What did the Otts do here, remember?

C. WALLACE: I think all the Otts were gone, because they were mixed up with the Bundschus.

WILLIAMS: There's an Ott-Mitchell Funeral Home. Was that the same Otts?

C. WALLACE: That's it. Yes, I think so. I think it's all the same Otts, and in some way they're intermarried or mixed up with the Bundschus. That's all I know.

WILLIAMS: Would you ever go to Emery Bird Thayer?

C. WALLACE: Yes, Emery Bird Thayer and Harzfeld's?

[End #4388; Begin #4389]

C. WALLACE: . . . this is another one. The one that raised Natalie just never worked.

WILLIAMS: Where would you get men's clothing?

D. WALLACE: Emery Bird's.

C. WALLACE: No, what was the men's store in Kansas City?

WILLIAMS: Was it the Wolff Brothers.

C. WALLACE: Wolff Brothers, and wasn't there a Robinson's or . . .

WILLIAMS: That's shoes.

C. WALLACE: No, down on the main street there. Well, it was Wolff Brothers, yes.

WILLIAMS: And this was in downtown Kansas City?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Would you ever go to the Plaza?

D. WALLACE: Oh, we went out there all the time.

C. WALLACE: Yes, I did before I was married. I didn't too much after Fred died.

D. WALLACE: Mother, you all would go in and you and Bess and everybody would

have lunch at what's-his-name's in the plaza.

C. WALLACE: No, it was downtown at Wolferman's.

D. WALLACE: At Wolferman's? You didn't go out to the Plaza?

C. WALLACE: No, not for a long time. I did before I was married, but afterwards I didn't.

WILLIAMS: Did they have Putsch's cafeterias back then?

C. WALLACE: I don't remember it.

WILLIAMS: But you'd go to Wolferman's?

C. WALLACE: Wolferman's and have lunch.

WILLIAMS: With Bess?

C. WALLACE: Yes, but we didn't do it too much. We didn't have that kind of money. But I can remember, though was this before I was married, a bunch of us would go to Wolferman's and get lunch, and then we'd hurry real quickly and run to the movie and get in before one o'clock. It just cost us twenty-five cents.

WILLIAMS: Well, this is the old jail.

C. WALLACE: Well, I never had any experience with the jail.

D. WALLACE: That's the Charlie Ross story I told you about.

WILLIAMS: Well, I'll just back up.

C. WALLACE: I wish you'd tell me where that library is. I know I sound like a broken record.

D. WALLACE: Well, Mother, just drop it for now. We'll find it.

WILLIAMS: We'll find it here on the map.

[return to car after visitor center]

C.WALLACE: Do these stores do pretty well?

D. WALLACE: We're going down toward Maple. What do we want?

WILLIAMS: It was on Spring.

DAGE:Especially summer vacation trade.

D. WALLACE: Oh, yes, there was the Ward's ordering office. Jackson County Free Public Library right there.

WILLIAMS: Where?

D. WALLACE: Mother!

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: Jackson County Free Public Library, Maple and Osage. Next to the Ward's catalogue store. Oh, a catalogue store, not order office, across from Western Auto.

WILLIAMS: That's where the library was.

D. WALLACE: In other words, down the block from Cook and Sermon's.

WILLIAMS: Would you go to the library much?

C. WALLACE: Yes, if we wanted a book, that's where we'd go.

WILLIAMS: Did you like to read as much as the Trumans?

C. WALLACE: Oh, everybody liked to read in that family.

D. WALLACE: See that block, Mother, coming down . . . Bank of Independence and a bookstore, then Cook's Paint and Varnish. Remember? Stewart Electric and Noel Insurance, Cook and Sermon, Smith's Bakery, and Army-Navy Store, Maple Cafe . . . What is that, Shussers?

WILLIAMS: Slusher's Shoes, shoe store. Johnson and Son Monuments. Uptown Cleaners and Laundry.

C. WALLACE: I think that Johnson Monument is where I got that marker for your father's grave.

D. WALLACE: Yes, sure. Uptown Cleaners, and then the Ward's catalogue office, and then the library on the corner, two blocks down.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and who was it that worked there?

D. WALLACE: Well, there's Choplin and Hood Real Estate, remember?

WILLIAMS: Where would you get your prescriptions?

D. WALLACE: Oh, yes, what drugstore? Well, Katz.

C. WALLACE: Katz or the Crown. I think the Crown.

D. WALLACE: Katz or Crown.

WILLIAMS: You wouldn't use Petey Childers?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Well, let's get out and . . . [tape is turned off]

C. WALLACE: What's that?

WILLIAMS: That's the police headquarters and jail, I guess.

C. WALLACE: And what street are we going to now?

WILLIAMS: Noland Road.

D. WALLACE: What was this originally over here by the side?

C. WALLACE: Is this Noland?

DAGE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: And what are we on?

DAGE: This is Truman Road.

D. WALLACE: Do you remember how they always had big windows so you could see all the machinery inside? You know, the industrial age pride. But it was

the power plant. Wasn't that, Mother?

C. WALLACE: What?

D. WALLACE: The power plant.

C. WALLACE: Yes, I think so.

D. WALLACE: I mean, there's only the facade left, but . . .

WILLIAMS: Now a gymnasium.

D. WALLACE: That's exactly what that was. [long pause] So did you flip all of your flash cards this morning again?

WILLIAMS: I tried.

D. WALLACE: I pulled off a couple of real coups this morning, names, I must say.

WILLIAMS: I pulled out your article to read over again.

D. WALLACE: Oh, good. The only unedited story that's ever appeared in the magazine. I told them they couldn't mess around with it. Probably a price they could get cheap.

WILLIAMS: Don't you just love editors?

D. WALLACE: I hate them. They have a good one at the *Times*. But what happens when things like the *Times* does it, it was supposed to be a Sunday story for this coming Sunday, and then the movie's grosses are dropping so fast they had to move it back. But we missed last Sunday, so they threw it in on Tuesday, because they'd already gotten the Wednesday color piece. So then you had to chop like 600 or 700 words out of the story. And use a meat cleaver because you still have to crank out a paper every day, not re-edit what's already been edited.

WILLIAMS: My year at William and Mary, I was in an editorial apprenticeship at the

William and Mary Quarterly, so I got the perspective.

C. WALLACE: There's the cemetery!

WILLIAMS: We'll stop there on the way back.

C. WALLACE: All right.

WILLIAMS: Did you know anybody out in this part of town?

C. WALLACE: I am trying to remember. I think Mary Bostian . . . didn't she live out this way, over on that side of the street?

WILLIAMS: Was she on Main Street?

C. WALLACE: No, aren't we on Noland Road?

WILLIAMS: We're on Noland.

C. WALLACE: I think she was on Noland Road.

WILLIAMS: They had a big house, didn't they?

C. WALLACE: I can't remember that.

WILLIAMS: And he was a car dealer?

C. WALLACE: Yes, for Chevys. And wasn't that other house of Blevins Davis out here on Noland Road? And it was over on this side on a corner.

WILLIAMS: The farm?

C. WALLACE: No, the farm . . .

WILLIAMS: The in-town house?

C. WALLACE: The in-town. Now, what's this street here? Is that a highway?

WILLIAMS: This is Twenty-third Street. Where did Independence end when you came out here?

C. WALLACE: That I don't remember.

D. WALLACE: Well, sort of here. Because they had a lot of new buildings there, and all

this is country, you see, out here. Everything sort of was here.

WILLIAMS: Was there much east of Noland Road?

D. WALLACE: It was a very small town then; it was like 20,000. Then it was sometime in the fifties that they annexed all of Jackson County that Kansas City didn't have, before Kansas City could do it is the reason. You know, there's always been a lot of trouble there. Pride of place, sort of.

C. WALLACE: You know, there is one person I have kept up with that used to live here, and that's Marjorie Nicks. She married Balfour, and she was Linda King's niece, and we do Christmas cards. She's married again, and I think she's been living mostly in Arizona—Phoenix—at least that's the last address I've had for her.

WILLIAMS: Her name has come up when I have interviewed people.

C. WALLACE: Forrest Martin now, Mrs. Forrest Martin.

WILLIAMS: So you were friends with her back here?

C. WALLACE: Yes. Well, she married Balfour. And I think that's an old Independence family, Balfours. Then I think he died—yes, he died—and then I think she lived here and helped take care of Linda and Oscar until they passed away. Oscar sold coffins, and Marian used to tease him and said, "King's comfy, cozy caskets." [chuckling]

D. WALLACE: That is so depressing. That is the worst junk food in America.

C. WALLACE: What is?

D. WALLACE: Sonic.

WILLIAMS: Sonic?

D. WALLACE: And the worst one is in Espaniola, New Mexico, where you get your

extra very bad jalapeno for five cents more—five cents more, not fifteen.

C. WALLACE: What is the name of this nursing home that she's in?

WILLIAMS: It's Independence Manor.

C. WALLACE: Is this Kings Road here?

WILLIAMS: Kings Highway. Why on earth it's called that, I don't know.

D. WALLACE: It's where it went. It must have gone somewhere at one time. It must have been related to Oscar's family.

WILLIAMS: Well, I wonder if we passed it.

D. WALLACE: It's 1600. I think we're south of that. No, we're 1351, 1356. No, it's still farther down.

WILLIAMS: They're getting smaller or getting bigger, the numbers?

D. WALLACE: No, they're getting bigger.

C. WALLACE: It's 1358 over here, 1400 there. This looks like a nursing home here. Nice looking one. Yes, there's the sign, "Independence Manor."

D. WALLACE: And you've got a place to park right there, or does that mean both places?

C. WALLACE: Well, that means for handicapped. I have a cane. [chuckling] [tape is turned off while the Wallaces visit May Wallace]

D. WALLACE: Well, now, how are you going to follow that up?

WILLIAMS: [unintelligible].

D. WALLACE: Oh, wonderful! Oh, boy!

WILLIAMS: Yes, it's nothing . . .

D. WALLACE: This is terrific! Well, it's all in the [unintelligible]. It just worked out that way. No, I think it's all organized that way.

C. WALLACE: Now what do we do?

WILLIAMS: Well, we're going to go by the Woodlawn and drive up Delaware Street.
You wanted to go to the library?

C. WALLACE: No, I just was wondering where it was.

D. WALLACE: Which library?

WILLIAMS: The Truman Library.

C. WALLACE: Oh, that library. Yes, sure.

WILLIAMS: Did you want to stop there?

C. WALLACE: Well . . .

D. WALLACE: I think it depends on what you all need to do.

C. WALLACE: I think it's what your time and what your . . .

WILLIAMS: Well, as long as we're finished by about noon.

C. WALLACE: What time do we go to the house?

WILLIAMS: If we stop, did you want to go and just look at the graves? Is that the idea?

D. WALLACE: Where? At the library?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

D. WALLACE: I think Woodlawn is more important.

WILLIAMS: Well, as we're going to Woodlawn, maybe you could explain why Madge and David are not buried together, Madge Wallace and David Wallace.

C. WALLACE: Oh, you mean . . . and David Wallace, the father? Because she is buried in her family . . . her mother and father's plot. I imagine she would rather be with them, because I think underneath it all she resented what

happened.

D. WALLACE: It seems rather pretty cold-blooded.

C. WALLACE: Well, he's buried on a Wallace plot. There is a Wallace plot other than the one where Fred is. Now, originally that was for Frank and George and May and Natalie and Fred and me. And even Harry and Bess originally were going to be buried there until the circumstances changed his way of life.

WILLIAMS: Did you ever hear this directly from her or Bess, that she resented . . .

C. WALLACE: But I always had a feeling. Why else would she just get to the point she wouldn't go out? She felt embarrassed that it was probably her fault or something. You never know, but when you assume that if somebody went through what she went through might underneath sort of feel, "Well, what have I done that's wrong?"

WILLIAMS: Are we going the right way?

D. WALLACE: No.

C. WALLACE: You go straight and . . .

D. WALLACE: No. Well, it's sort of the right way.

WILLIAMS: Down here?

D. WALLACE: Yes. Etzenhouser, Russell Etzenhouser. That was your friend, remember?

C. WALLACE: Etzenhouser, she was the first-grade teacher.

D. WALLACE: Yes, at Bryant. Come to the cemetery, you might remember a lot of people then.

C. WALLACE: It's right at a corner.

WILLIAMS: So we presume that Madge decided where she would be buried?

C. WALLACE: I guess so. A lot of those things she discussed with Bess. See, the Gates . . . Now, Grandmother is buried here on the Gates plot.

WILLIAMS: Are we getting out?

D. WALLACE: Whatever you want. Mother, do you want to get out?

C. WALLACE: Yes. Well, can we pull up just a little bit? Maybe I can see what I want to see. Now, Fred is buried down here with a flat stone.

D. WALLACE: Yes, right there.

C. WALLACE: Right there. Well, it is maintained somewhat.

WILLIAMS: You can get out if you want.

C. WALLACE: No. I can see everything I want to see. I had a real flat stone. Isn't that flat stone right there Dad?

D. WALLACE: Who's down in the hole, I wonder, in the crypt down there? Neat, huh? See down there?

WILLIAMS: So all the Gateses are here.

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: All of Madge's brothers and sisters.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and herself, and her mother and father. And that's Fred there.

WILLIAMS: Right there?

C. WALLACE: Behind David. Then there's George Wallace, and Natalie and Frank, and there's a place there next to George where it says "Mary S." So Aunt May will go there. Then there's Fred. And at the time I got that stone for Fred, Frank Wallace told me that's the kind they were going to get, and then they show up with this thing, so . . . Some places won't let

you have anything more than a flat one, and somehow I think it's best.

WILLIAMS: So are there vacant spots for the Trumans that they never used?

C. WALLACE: Yes, right.

WILLIAMS: And would those be right along here, then?

C. WALLACE: Yes, I guess so, or they . . . I don't know how they divided it up, but then there's a place next to Fred where they're supposed to put me. I'm not sure whether I want to go there or not yet. I have a friend who wants to be cremated and have her ashes sprinkled over the mountain of the Holy Cross. Where is that?

WILLIAMS: I don't know.

C. WALLACE: And I have another friend who wants to have her ashes scattered in the Pacific Ocean. People have a lot of strange ideas.

WILLIAMS: So did Madge own these lots all through the years?

C. WALLACE: These lots were owned, I think, by . . .

D. WALLACE: I didn't realize G. Walter and Frank died within two years of each other. Frank Gates is the one you're trying to think of.

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: And who was Tillie and Theodore and all these others?

WILLIAMS: Theodore was Myra's husband.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and I think Tillie might have been a . . .

D. WALLACE: But they had a lot of babies that are dead in there.

C. WALLACE: Well, Grandmother Wallace had a baby that died young.

D. WALLACE: Really?

C. WALLACE: Yes, it's in that little [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: That was between Fred and . . .

C. WALLACE: Between Fred and George, that's right.

D. WALLACE: Oh, really? A boy?

WILLIAMS: Eighteen ninety-eight.

C. WALLACE: No, a girl. I think it's unnamed.

D. WALLACE: Really? Well, because there's nothing up there about that.

C. WALLACE: Well, maybe they didn't bury them in those days. I don't know how old the baby . . .

D. WALLACE: Her headstone is sure chipped. Grandmother's headstone is all chipped over there.

C. WALLACE: She was about three years old, wasn't she? Two or three years old.

WILLIAMS: That burgundy one?

D. WALLACE: No, right there is Dad's, the flat one.

WILLIAMS: Yes, and is Madge's . . .

D. WALLACE: Right there, on the other side of the column.

WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

D. WALLACE: Just on the other side. Frank and G. Walter were her brothers?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: But wasn't there another brother?

C. WALLACE: Not that I know of.

D. WALLACE: So there were just the three of them?

C. WALLACE: No, there were two sisters.

WILLIAMS: Three girls, two boys.

C. WALLACE: Three girls and two boys.

D. WALLACE: Where are they?

WILLIAMS: And Tillie and Bessie are . . .

C. WALLACE: Well, I think Myra is . . .

D. WALLACE: Here we are right here. Here are some more Gateses.

WILLIAMS: That's George P. and Elizabeth.

C. WALLACE: That's her mother and father. George P. is George Porterfield, and the other is . . .

D. WALLACE: Yes, and then all those little teeny stones must be the babies, right.

WILLIAMS: Yes, there's Tillie and Bessie and . . . I think one says just "Our Baby."

D. WALLACE: The thing is on the column, you see.

C. WALLACE: They would be her parents' kids.

WILLIAMS: Right.

C. WALLACE: But Mrs. Wallace's, Madge, the child that she lost, I think she was about two or three years old, wasn't she? They had a lot of scarlet fever and diphtheria and stuff in those days.

WILLIAMS: I think Myra . . . they're in Kansas City in a cemetery.

C. WALLACE: I think Myra is there, and I imagine . . .

WILLIAMS: And Maud . . .

C. WALLACE: Maud is up at Platte City.

WILLIAMS: In the Wells area. I remember that now.

D. WALLACE: Then where is the Wallace [plot]?

C. WALLACE: I think he's way over on the other side, isn't he?

WILLIAMS: That's near the entrance, more toward the gate.

C. WALLACE: Yes, you go in the entrance and turn to the right.

WILLIAMS: We occasionally come out here and look at the . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, you need to.

C. WALLACE: Oh, a lot of people do when they write history. I mean, they go through these old . . .

D. WALLACE: Who are the Minors we just drove by, Mother?

C. WALLACE: Minors? They were good friends of Aunt B.'s.

WILLIAMS: The Minor sisters? [long pause]

C. WALLACE: Yes. Well, anyway, I never did know why she didn't want to be over here, and . . .

WILLIAMS: It's right down here somewhere.

D. WALLACE: Right here?

WILLIAMS: Is this the one you think is Blevins Davis?

D. WALLACE: No, it's not Blevins. It's over here somewhere, maybe the white one. That's the Pryors there. I think the white one is Blevins and his mother.

WILLIAMS: It says Davis.

D. WALLACE: It does? Well, that's it then.

C. WALLACE: Where?

D. WALLACE: The white box, I said.

C. WALLACE: Where?

WILLIAMS: Can you see, over to the right?

D. WALLACE: With the drawers in it.

WILLIAMS: Beyond that green . . .

C. WALLACE: Oh, way over there?

WILLIAMS: Yes, with the drawers.

D. WALLACE: The one with the doors. Unscrew it and shove them in.

C. WALLACE: Why would they have three doors?

D. WALLACE: He had a mother and a father, presumably.

C. WALLACE: Oh, yes. Where would the Wallace one be?

WILLIAMS: I think they're up here on the right.

C. WALLACE: Some of these monuments are cracking, don't you think?

WILLIAMS: They're not as easy to pick out as the big Gates obelisk. Is this it, the Wallaces, that white . . . ?

D. WALLACE: Where? There?

WILLIAMS: Right here.

D. WALLACE: Yes, it sure is. Yes, there he is, right there.

WILLIAMS: David W. Wallace.

D. WALLACE: They've got a little baby here again, too.

C. WALLACE: Well, maybe that's the baby they lost.

D. WALLACE: It says "Infant" right there. Yes, that would make sense, doesn't it?

C. WALLACE: Yes, wasn't she about two or three years old?

D. WALLACE: Then who is next to him?

WILLIAMS: Virginia. That's his mother.

C. WALLACE: Virginia Willock is his Mother Wallace, and then where is his father?

WILLIAMS: That was Benjamin.

D. WALLACE: Next to it.

WILLIAMS: That may be the big . . .

C. WALLACE: The big one?

WILLIAMS: No, here's a Benjamin back here. And Carrie and Nannie Stamper.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and look how they're all the same. I wonder why that one has that metal cross. Do you think he was military?

D. WALLACE: Probably [unintelligible].

WILLIAMS: They had a baby named Albina, I remember that.

D. WALLACE: Is that who is there? Baby Albina, is that what it says?

WILLIAMS: Mary Albina.

D. WALLACE: [reading] "Mary Albina, only child of . . ."

WILLIAMS: That's not true. [chuckling]

C. WALLACE: Only child of who?

WILLIAMS: B. F. and Virginia, David's parents. It certainly wasn't their only child.

C. WALLACE: Well, they lost a lot of kids back in those days.

WILLIAMS: There are the Wallaces.

D. WALLACE: Now, who are those up there? [reading] "Thomas. Mary, wife of Thomas."

WILLIAMS: I think that's the generation before Benjamin and . . .

D. WALLACE: And there's Thomas, 1770-something to 1858. That was a long time ago then.

WILLIAMS: Right, Thomas was the father of Benjamin, who was the father of David Willock Wallace. They go way back.

C. WALLACE: I don't like those funny kind of . . . Don't you think they're funny-shaped things? They look like little trunks.

D. WALLACE: Latimer, whatever happened to them?

C. WALLACE: Oh, yes, the Latimers.

D. WALLACE: What was my friend's name, the Latimer kid? There's a birthday party

picture of me in that god-awful sailor suit—another one—which I have.

C. WALLACE: Well, you have that little sailor suit, and you put it on Christopher.

D. WALLACE: Like a third or fourth birthday. I have all those pictures. I'll send them to you.

WILLIAMS: Carol would like those.

C. WALLACE: Do you hear that?

DAGE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: And your name is Carol?

DAGE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: Why do I think of Cindy?

D. WALLACE: I don't know, it's even nailed to her chest, Mother: Carol.

C. WALLACE: I don't go around looking at her chest. [chuckling] Who was Cindy?

WILLIAMS: You met a Cinda at the ticket counter.

C. WALLACE: I met a Cindy somewhere, didn't I? Okay.

WILLIAMS: She's a volunteer.

C. WALLACE: Yes, I remember now, thanks. I should remember it because I have a granddaughter Cindy. I do think Aunt May is well. Is she well?

D. WALLACE: Sure. She's [unintelligible].

C. WALLACE: And you've never talked to Bill Carnes?

WILLIAMS: No, I've seen him drive in and out of her house. I was going to call him this summer until I heard that he has been ill.

C. WALLACE: Oh? He lives over on Proctor Place. I think it's where the old Southern home . . . I think that's where Mr. Southern lived, Mr. and Mrs. Southern. Now what do we do?

WILLIAMS: Heading toward the library on Liberty and . . . Here's Trinity Episcopal.

C. WALLACE: That's where they were married, yes.

WILLIAMS: Were you in here very much through the years?

C. WALLACE: No, I've only been in there once, and that's when Bess was . . . had her funeral. As I understand it, they were all Presbyterians to begin with.

D. WALLACE: Who?

C. WALLACE: Grandmother and all the kids, and that a young Episcopalian minister came to Independence. I don't know, he just got to know all the young people, and he got them to become Episcopalians. So I think Bess went Episcopal and then the rest of them followed, except Natalie, she stayed a Presbyterian. Well, Natalie wasn't around when those . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, of course not, and what about Grandmother?

C. WALLACE: She became an Episcopalian.

D. WALLACE: Well, she wasn't a young person.

C. WALLACE: No, well, anyway, Bess started, and George and Frank became Episcopalians, and so then Grandmother did. Now, that's how I got it. Now, whether she went . . .

D. WALLACE: Well, and Dad did, too.

C. WALLACE: Well, yes, Fred.

WILLIAMS: And you were Catholic?

C. WALLACE: I wasn't even around in those days. Fred was just a little kid. Why your father was called Fred, because that was his first name. Then, when his father died, she tagged on David. Instead of saying Fred David, she made it David Fred, in his effigy.

WILLIAMS: Oh, I didn't know that he wasn't originally David Frederick.

C. WALLACE: Not originally. Now, this is what I was told. I wasn't around.

WILLIAMS: Right.

D. WALLACE: Well, I think that would be right on the baptismal record. You have all of them.

C. WALLACE: Well, when they went around to baptize him, I think then he was David. But they didn't baptize right at first in the Episcopal Church. Sometimes they weren't baptized until they were eight, nine years old. Remember at Saint Matthew's with you, David? They had some baptismal ceremonies and some of the kids were . . .

D. WALLACE: That has nothing to do with being born into it and changing it.

WILLIAMS: All the time you were married, you went to the Catholic church here, when you lived here?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Saint Mary's?

C. WALLACE: Yes, and we had the priest here conduct the ceremony at the grave.

WILLIAMS: Was that any controversy there of him marrying a Catholic?

C. WALLACE: Not that I know of.

WILLIAMS: Mother Wallace didn't object?

C. WALLACE: She never said anything to me. I don't think anything Freddie would do she'd object to, anyway. [chuckling]

WILLIAMS: He was the cat's meow, huh?

C. WALLACE: He was the baby boy. [chuckling] No, I don't know.

WILLIAMS: I am, too, so . . .

C. WALLACE: He was very close to his mother.

D. WALLACE: You mean there are more of you?

WILLIAMS: I'm the youngest of five, so . . .

D. WALLACE: Really?

C. WALLACE: And aren't you the baby boy?

WILLIAMS: Yes, I'm the big, tallest . . .

C. WALLACE: But you understand what I mean. No, he and his mother were very close. Well, I read something in that book of Margaret's I never knew all these years, that when he went down to the University of Missouri in Columbia she went down there and kept house for him. Now, that's in Margaret's book. I never knew that. Now, I was always told he lived at the fraternity house.

WILLIAMS: And he was an SAE?

C. WALLACE: SAE, but I could see her doing it.

WILLIAMS: But that was before your time.

C. WALLACE: That was much before my time. [Inaudible conversation takes place between D. Wallace and J. Williams]

C. WALLACE: Your father was never drafted.

WILLIAMS: We were wondering why he wasn't.

C. WALLACE: Because he was eighteen and he was in college, and they weren't taking them from school. He was planning to go, so I'm told, and then the war was over.

WILLIAMS: How come George and Frank didn't go?

C. WALLACE: Well, I don't know, unless . . .

D. WALLACE: When did George lose his eye?

C. WALLACE: I didn't know he lost an eye.

D. WALLACE: Mother, he had one eye. You know that.

C. WALLACE: I've forgotten.

WILLIAMS: He had a glass eye?

D. WALLACE: A glass eye, yes.

C. WALLACE: I'd think that Frank would be his health. God, he was never well.
George, I don't know.

D. WALLACE: Oh, well, he was so sick he [unintelligible].

C. WALLACE: Well, you know how he was always heaving and . . .

D. WALLACE: Yes, wheezing and then reaching for another cigarette.

C. WALLACE: Yes, he smoked too much.

WILLIAMS: Now, this used to be Slover Park. Is that right?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Did you come down here very much?

C. WALLACE: No, never did.

WILLIAMS: Where would you go to play?

C. WALLACE: We had a big backyard, and it had a swing and a teeter-totter. I don't think children ran around much to parks and so forth then.

D. WALLACE: They sure did. *We didn't.*

C. WALLACE: David was barely allowed to walk home from school. Grandmother Wallace would be at the window looking for him thirty minutes before he was even out of school.

D. WALLACE: Which window?

C. WALLACE: Well, the bay, the little north window.

D. WALLACE: Oh, in the den, yes.

C. WALLACE: No, not in the den, in the living room.

D. WALLACE: There's no north bay in the living room.

WILLIAMS: In the parlor.

C. WALLACE: There is a bay in the living room.

D. WALLACE: Not on the north.

C. WALLACE: There's a little window there, isn't there?

D. WALLACE: Way up at the front?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: Oh, I see. So she could look farthest up Delaware that way toward Bryant.

C. WALLACE: Yes, waiting for you.

WILLIAMS: Did you want to see anything while we're here at the library?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't think so. [David Wallace leaves the car.] I have learned more things from him coming. I wonder how he ever knew a lot of these things he comes up with.

WILLIAMS: He must have asked or something.

C. WALLACE: I don't know. I never even knew George had a glass eye; and if I did, I've forgotten. And you know, you can forget things so that you think you never knew. Maybe I'm having amnesia.

WILLIAMS: So would it be correct to say that Madge was a doting grandmother?

C. WALLACE: She was a doting mother. As for a grandmother, yes, I think more Margaret though. Just like they say, she was horrified when Margaret

wanted to go on the stage or be an opera singer. Margaret played the piano. I thought she played it well, but I wouldn't know. I'm not a musician. But she would play the piano lots of times in the evening. Grandmother enjoyed it. Grandmother . . . I think she played a piano one time, because she went to the conservatory. Where is that, the conservatory in . . .

WILLIAMS: Kansas City? [David Wallace returns]

C. WALLACE: No. What conservatory did Grandmother Wallace go to? What? What did he say?

CAROL DAGE: Dr. Zobrist is still away.

C. WALLACE: David, what conservatory did Grandmother go to? Cincinnati Conservatory of Music.

WILLIAMS: So she was a musician?

C. WALLACE: Oh, evidently. I never heard her play or anything, but evidently she must have done something when she went there.

WILLIAMS: What did she do for leisure time? Did she sew?

D. WALLACE: She'd stand at the window and watch for us to come home.

C. WALLACE: She always got up first in the morning, and she went to the kitchen, and there was always wood there to put in the stove and start a fire. Then she would make the coffee, and she would make the oatmeal. Freddie always ate oatmeal.

WILLIAMS: Did they call him Freddie?

C. WALLACE: Yes, Margaret did.

D. WALLACE: Grandmother didn't.

C. WALLACE: No, Grandmother called him Fred, I guess. I don't know.

D. WALLACE: Why did you just call him Freddie?

C. WALLACE: Oh, just to be dumb. Then Fred would come down and drink his coffee, eat his oatmeal. Sometimes he'd fix himself an egg or something. Anyway, people gradually put in an appearance. Then Bess would come.

WILLIAMS: Did you know anyone this far up Delaware Street?

C. WALLACE: The Eisen . . . Didn't they live along here? The teacher, David?

D. WALLACE: Etzenhousers.

C. WALLACE: Etzenhousers lived along here.

WILLIAMS: There's an Eisenhower house, too.

C. WALLACE: Etzenhouser. Whose house is that? My, that's pretty.

WILLIAMS: Does it look different?

C. WALLACE: Then Mize Peters lived along here in one of these small houses, something more like this one that's for sale.

WILLIAMS: Now this, I understand, is where David and Madge's house was, where that big tree is.

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: The house isn't here, but . . .

C. WALLACE: Now, whose house was that? Was that the people that lived next door that they played with all the time?

WILLIAMS: That's a relative of Dwight Eisenhower somehow.

C. WALLACE: Oh, no!

WILLIAMS: That's what the plaque up there . . .

D. WALLACE: Really? Interesting.

WILLIAMS: Or an aide to Eisenhower, somehow connected with the Eisenhower administration.

C. WALLACE: I didn't know that.

WILLIAMS: Did you know the Jennings, the Sawyer-Jennings house?

C. WALLACE: Kind of pretty, aren't they, the old houses?

WILLIAMS: Sue Gentry lives down that way [on Waldo].

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Rufus Burrus.

C. WALLACE: Yes. Attorney.

WILLIAMS: Was he the family attorney?

C. WALLACE: Yes, he was Frank and . . . I don't know whether he was George's, and I think Harry went to him, too. Whose house is this? It's a big one.

D. WALLACE: One of those new ones.

WILLIAMS: One of these is the Etzenhousers.

C. WALLACE: This one. This one is Etzenhousers, I think.

WILLIAMS: The Twymans live along here somewhere.

C. WALLACE: Twymans, I forgot them. And whose house is this? This is an oldie. I haven't seen some of these . . . There's a house down there, or a lot, where they certainly need to cut the grass. Look at it down there.

D. WALLACE: Well, it's that side, right? [looking at maps]

WILLIAMS: This is north, so we're on this side. 416 . . .

D. WALLACE: Adelaide Twyman.

[End #4389; Begin #4390]

WILLIAMS: And on this side [east side of Delaware, south from Farmer], it goes Lillian Horn, Joseph Bridges . . .

D. WALLACE: Henry Wurtzel, Lavinia Records, Mary Charlton, and Van Triplett, and then Lawrence Proctor and Paul Bischoff on the corner.

WILLIAMS: They were ministers.

D. WALLACE: Yes, three were, Proctor, Bischoff, and Hunt right around the corner.

C. WALLACE: I didn't know any of them.

WILLIAMS: So none of those names struck a bell?

C. WALLACE: No, except Choplin. What are they doing here?

WILLIAMS: This is another bed and breakfast over here.

C. WALLACE: Well, I think they need to cut their grass. It looks kind of messy, don't you think?

WILLIAMS: This was the Compton house [318], the Bushes [310].

C. WALLACE: And the Choplins. And you say she died?

WILLIAMS: August 5.

D. WALLACE: In poverty, from the looks of the house, huh?

WILLIAMS: She was coming back from work, and she was eighty-four, had a part-time job. The Secret Service house [224]. The Luffs lived there, I think, when you were around.

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: John Major [220].

WILLIAMS: John Major? Did you know them?

D. WALLACE: Does it ring a bell, Mother?

C. WALLACE: Yes, sort of.

WILLIAMS: Mary O'Reilly?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: Nellie Noland?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: And this one was Mrs. Madge Wallace and Harry S. Truman, 1948.

C. WALLACE: Yes, and then who was next door there?

D. WALLACE: Charles Kellogg.

C. WALLACE: Well, that's been in and out of . . .

WILLIAMS: That's Mrs. Allen's son, and one that Harriet, I think . . .

C. WALLACE: Oh, you mean the son-in-law?

WILLIAMS: Right, she was a Kellogg for a while. While we're here, when you look at the Truman-Wallace house . . . Does the yard look thinner, thicker?

C. WALLACE: No, just about the same.

D. WALLACE: Except for the pergola.

WILLIAMS: More trees, less trees?

C. WALLACE: The pergola is gone!

D. WALLACE: Yes, we talked about that last night.

C. WALLACE: Why?

D. WALLACE: The stone base is still there for it.

WILLIAMS: And the Secret Service hut, was that . . . ?

D. WALLACE: Right there [southeast quadrant of 219 yard].

WILLIAMS: Right here? And this is where the big tree was, where the swing . . .

D. WALLACE: A little bit in there.

C. WALLACE: It would be sort of out into the middle more.

WILLIAMS: Out towards the house?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: You said you usually wouldn't use this driveway?

D. WALLACE: Well, they never had to.

C. WALLACE: We didn't have to.

D. WALLACE: This wasn't a driveway.

C. WALLACE: It was just an alley.

D. WALLACE: This was all open alley. Remember, there was no fence here until 1949, according to your own presentation, which means the first four years of the presidency there was no fence or anything, just a little electric eye thing.

C. WALLACE: See, all this was open, Jim.

D. WALLACE: There were no fences. We used to run back and forth, up and down.

WILLIAMS: The fences came up after you moved to Denver?

D. WALLACE: No, the fences came up after . . .

C. WALLACE: Harry was president.

D. WALLACE: No, that was done before, and they didn't fence it. The fence here came after Frank's house was sold, that fence.

WILLIAMS: The chain-link fence.

D. WALLACE: Because, you see, this is the old fence right here.

WILLIAMS: Were these houses always green and red?

D. WALLACE: Hers was exactly the same color, always.

C. WALLACE: Yes, exactly.

WILLIAMS: And they still have awnings on Frank's.

D. WALLACE: Always had awnings.

C. WALLACE: Yes, Frank would . . .

WILLIAMS: And that's similar to . . .

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Would those come down in the winter?

C. WALLACE: No, sometimes you'd pull them up.

D. WALLACE: I don't think they ever took them down.

C. WALLACE: I don't think they ever took them down.

WILLIAMS: They were just pulled up into the house?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: The roses are a new addition there. They used to have . . .

C. WALLACE: Yes, peonies.

D. WALLACE: Peonies, like billions of them.

C. WALLACE: On each side of the driveway. They've got . . . it looks like grass growing in the driveways.

WILLIAMS: Where were Bess's roses? Because we understand she had them.

C. WALLACE: Around the pergola.

D. WALLACE: Which you see the base of it right over there, the brick. The sundial was farther out into the yard, I think. Are you all trying to save water, or is there something there?

WILLIAMS: We don't water the grass.

D. WALLACE: Oh? Why?

WILLIAMS: Because the Trumans supposedly did not.

D. WALLACE: I never saw it look like this whenever I was here. They had a gardener

here all the time working in the yard.

C. WALLACE: Well, you know who cut the grass, don't you, all the years . . .

D. WALLACE: See, that's where the pergola was on the bricks, on the base there.

C. WALLACE: Right. And all before, what did Aunt May say? "Oh, today the preacher is coming to cut the grass." And he was one of the black preachers, and then he would, I guess during the week, cut people's grass.

WILLIAMS: But that was after you were . . . That wasn't while you were here?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. No, I don't think so.

WILLIAMS: Who took care of the yard when you were living here?

C. WALLACE: Well, that's what I'm trying to think.

D. WALLACE: I think everybody did. I even cut the grass.

C. WALLACE: I think everybody. Well, I think Fred went out and pushed a lawn mower.

D. WALLACE: Yes, I can remember cutting the grass. And then the summers I was back here, I was always cutting the grass.

C. WALLACE: And everybody used to sit right around on the other side of this peony bush, between that and that bush there, in the summertime. Then the tree was . . . That tree sure has grown. It wasn't that big.

WILLIAMS: The big shingle oak.

C. WALLACE: Yes, well, it was over this way.

D. WALLACE: See, you know all those things I don't even know about it.

C. WALLACE: Anyway, they used to play croquet a lot.

WILLIAMS: On the south?

D. WALLACE: Grass, right over there.

WILLIAMS: East?

C. WALLACE: Over by where the steps go up to the living room, that door, and out a little bit and down this way.

D. WALLACE: Right there.

WILLIAMS: Where it's relatively flat, no bushes.

C. WALLACE: Yes. And because right there, David, is where that big tree was with the swing on it.

D. WALLACE: Over there.

WILLIAMS: Where it's clear now.

C. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Was this overgrown as much over here?

D. WALLACE: More.

WILLIAMS: More? Why did they do it that way?

C. WALLACE: Well, the bushes have grown bigger. We went in there by a house we used to live in, and it used to have a white picket fence around it. They've taken it down and put a brown fence, and it had big trees. We thought they were big. You should see them now. They're enormous! I wouldn't have known the place. So these trees do grow in twenty years.

D. WALLACE: It's been a little more than that here.

C. WALLACE: No, this tree has always been here. That's the tree Uncle George always parked his car under.

WILLIAMS: That's the one on the east side of the driveway.

D. WALLACE: And it wasn't that big.

WILLIAMS: And you said last night the Trumans parked their car . . .

C. WALLACE: In here.

WILLIAMS: In the garage. Did they have one specific side?

D. WALLACE: Well, they changed. When you all lived here, Mother, where did you park?

C. WALLACE: I don't know. There comes a policeman looking you over.

D. WALLACE: No, he isn't, Mother, he's a ranger and you met him. Which side did you all park on, do you remember?

C. WALLACE: No, I don't. And Frank Wallace . . .

D. WALLACE: I think on the left, and they parked on the right. I have that feeling.

C. WALLACE: Frank parked in there, too, with us.

D. WALLACE: On the same side as you?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: And then they parked their car on the other side.

C. WALLACE: And they parked their car on the other side. And then May went in her garage and George parked under this tree.

WILLIAMS: So May and George had separate cars?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: He had a county car, and she had the Hudson.

WILLIAMS: So there were several cars back here.

C. WALLACE: Yes, there'd be one, two, three, four, five.

WILLIAMS: And, of course, the screened-in back porch wasn't like that when you lived here.

C. WALLACE: No, it was just a little narrow one, like it was on the side. It came all around the same . . .

WILLIAMS: Now, that fenced-in area where you played, it was over right here?

C. WALLACE: It was right where that bush is.

WILLIAMS: So it would kind of end where the brick . . .

C. WALLACE: It came out here a little way, and then went that way a little way, and that way a little way, and back. It wasn't as big as it looked. And you see again a good view of the sleeping porch up there.

WILLIAMS: We have windows over it now, but . . .

C. WALLACE: I know you do. It was just screens, and Harry and Bess always used to sleep out there. Then, from there, this way in the house, was Margaret's room.

WILLIAMS: Did you have much to do with the yard? Did you like flowers and piddle around that way?

C. WALLACE: Nothing would grow for me. No, I don't remember doing it. Fred was never much for digging in the yard.

WILLIAMS: What about Mother Wallace?

C. WALLACE: Well, she liked what she had.

WILLIAMS: Which was . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Well, she had some roses, and these peonies, and then on the north side of the house was a big thing of lilies of the valley, lots of lilies of the valley.

WILLIAMS: Along the house, or the fence, or . . . ?

C. WALLACE: Well, go to the north side of the house, and from that, from the house toward the street, right close to the house . . . They need a lot of shade and dampness and so forth. Then, on this side, she had some . . . a funny

little pink flower—I don't know what it was—and she had some morning glories, and that was fine. Nobody was much of a gardener.

WILLIAMS: Were there flowers in the house a lot, fresh . . . ?

C. WALLACE: If anybody had enough energy to go out and pick them. But we did pick a lot of the flowers, and the peonies were just beautiful! But they have ants in them. Did you know peonies have ants in them? So we never brought those in the house too often, but they were pretty. We'd sit out here and look at them.

WILLIAMS: Do you remember any storms or occasions where the trees came down or limbs would fall?

C. WALLACE: We never had any trees or limbs fall down. There have been storms. I know one storm, Fred was coming home from Kansas City on the jitney and there's some . . . What's the little town between here and Kansas City if you went out Truman Road? Well, anyway . . .

WILLIAMS: Blue Summit?

C. WALLACE: No, it's just an area where this street is Independence and then this street is something else, and then there's Kansas City along there. We had an electric storm . . . No, it wasn't an electric storm. I think it was a . . . they blew down a lot of things. That would be a small tornado or a cyclone or something. Oh, it did a mess! And I remember we got in the car after Fred got home, and George—no, it was Frank Wallace—and we went over there and everything was just down. They really didn't want people walking around too much because there were a lot of wires down. Now, that's the only real bad storm I remember. That didn't

affect us any, but it was between here and Kansas City, and it could have been bad.

WILLIAMS: What did taking care of the lawn involve?

D. WALLACE: Cutting the grass and *watering it*.

C. WALLACE: We didn't water very much.

D. WALLACE: We watered all the time, and they watered constantly down there. It was a green jungle, and, of course, on the other side of Frank's house was a whole hedge.

WILLIAMS: I've heard that Frank had . . . like bushes all the way around.

D. WALLACE: Well, not there, not in the middle; not where the fence is, but on the east side and the south side.

WILLIAMS: Why was that?

D. WALLACE: Privacy, only I never knew there was anything on the other side until now.

WILLIAMS: Would these things . . .

D. WALLACE: Those were always there. Those things were always there.

WILLIAMS: On the east side of the garage . . .

C. WALLACE: That's where the trash barrel was, right over there.

D. WALLACE: No, it was right in the middle here, for burning the trash.

WILLIAMS: What was it, just a barrel?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Was this concrete slab . . .

D. WALLACE: Yes, just like that. I think it was like that; just so you could come in and burn it.

WILLIAMS: Whose job was that?

D. WALLACE: I did it a lot in those summers I was here. I don't know where the garbage went; I never figured that out. I guess they just wrapped it up, and it was picked up.

WILLIAMS: Like the food?

D. WALLACE: Yes.

C. WALLACE: I don't know what happened to the garbage. Maybe they had somebody come and pick it up. I don't know. That's a good question. I never thought about it.

WILLIAMS: Did May or Natalie bother much with the yard, as far as flowers?

D. WALLACE: No, nobody really grew flowers . . . Just a minute. Something is ringing a bell about Natalie. She had some flowers along the side of the house there, the west side of the house. I was much closer to them than to May and George. I don't know why. The minute I got here, then, you know, how fast can you get down and say hello to them, you know?

C. WALLACE: Well, May and George had Margaret. They didn't need you.

D. WALLACE: That's nice.

C. WALLACE: Well, isn't that true?

D. WALLACE: Not particularly. I didn't know that they had her.

C. WALLACE: Well, Margaret had them then.

D. WALLACE: The bushes have overgrown a lot there now. You know, they're covering up the foot path.

WILLIAMS: But it was always spirea?

D. WALLACE: Always that, yes.

C. WALLACE: Spirea? There was a lot of spirea around 219.

D. WALLACE: Yes, you saw it in the pictures last night.

WILLIAMS: Would they keep it trimmed or just . . .

D. WALLACE: No, it was just like in those pictures, sort of wild.

C. WALLACE: Nobody worked in the yard much or trimmed. We cut the grass when you had to and put water in it.

WILLIAMS: I heard somewhere that Frank liked to sunbathe in the backyard.

D. WALLACE: Yes, he sat out there all the time.

C. WALLACE: In one of those lounge chairs.

D. WALLACE: He was always sitting in the backyard. Canvas, you know, canvas and wood sling chairs, striped, blue and red, green and red. You tell me how he got a 1939 Hudson and that. [chuckling] I'll tell you, it takes a lot of concentration.

WILLIAMS: So you walked through here to the pediatrician.

D. WALLACE: Yes, right there. Yes, but you didn't cut around that corner.

C. WALLACE: Well, you cut right through here where this gate is.

D. WALLACE: Now, what's that old gate from there? Oh, that was the gate back there then. Very strange.

WILLIAMS: Did they ever tell you about putting this fence up, why they did it, or who paid for it?

D. WALLACE: Yes, the government paid for it.

C. WALLACE: The government did.

D. WALLACE: Yes, it was put up in 1949 or 1950.

C. WALLACE: To keep people from taking the house apart for samples.

D. WALLACE: Well, no, that was not the reason. The reason was security.

C. WALLACE: Well, it was security, too.

D. WALLACE: The assassination attempt, it came right after that.

WILLIAMS: Well, why did they wait so long?

D. WALLACE: Why did he walk back and forth from Blair House to the White House?
He'd just walk over to his office.

WILLIAMS: So the assassination was the real . . .

D. WALLACE: That was the thing that triggered all the security stuff, but nobody really
paid much attention before that.

C. WALLACE: I thought they thought they would take samples. The house looks
awfully nice, doesn't it, David?

D. WALLACE: Well, pretty good.

WILLIAMS: And there was never any kind of picket fence along here?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: So was this solid hedge?

D. WALLACE: No, it was just about like it is now.

C. WALLACE: Just like it is, so the kids could walk through.

D. WALLACE: It was all just sort of wide-open. And that line about the American flag
was there when he was here is completely fallacious. The American flag
was put up every morning by the Secret Service, whoever was here,
when no one was here.

C. WALLACE: Are these people waiting to go through?

DAGE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: We've trimmed the bushes.

D. WALLACE: You've put new ugly curb in there.

WILLIAMS: Well, that's the city.

D. WALLACE: I know, see, that's the curb that used to be . . .

WILLIAMS: We trimmed the spirea last year. Before that, they were much more overgrown. Should they be thicker, in your memory?

C. WALLACE: Yes, much thicker.

D. WALLACE: Take a look at those winter pictures with all of us out there in the snow, and you'll see how big they were then.

WILLIAMS: That was on the northwest corner right there, at the curb.

D. WALLACE: Right there, yes. New tree?

WILLIAMS: Yes. We had to remove and replace a few that were dead or dying.

D. WALLACE: The trees are really too big from what they used to be, but that's inevitable.

WILLIAMS: What about this side of the house [north]?

C. WALLACE: Yes, it looks just the same.

D. WALLACE: We never were over here much.

C. WALLACE: Well, Uncle Harry . . . that first window there is where he sat and read, downstairs there.

WILLIAMS: Did you climb trees?

C. WALLACE: No.

D. WALLACE: I was not allowed to do anything.

C. WALLACE: Well, they weren't the trees that grow enough branches for kids to be able to climb.

D. WALLACE: Somehow they can manage.

WILLIAMS: The Hunts lived over here.

D. WALLACE: Yes. Who lived there, Mother, in the stone house?

C. WALLACE: I don't know.

D. WALLACE: These bushes are much too big in front of May's house.

WILLIAMS: Well, you see she's trimming . . . This is our maintenance man, who's a woman.

C. WALLACE: Where?

WILLIAMS: There in the bushes, trimming Natalie and Frank's . . .

D. WALLACE: I've got to tell you, you've really done a lovely job on this book—I mean, really sensational. Did they teach you how to do this at school, how to run your own little history hoohaw?

WILLIAMS: No, I did this on my own several years ago, and I don't think anyone uses it much, but it comes in handy.

D. WALLACE: No, it's really sensational. Am I looking for something else?

WILLIAMS: Up here, block sixteen.

D. WALLACE: Where do you number those?

WILLIAMS: Ray Stewart.

D. WALLACE: Yes, Ray Stewart. Anna Jackson.

WILLIAMS: Did you know the Jacksons?

D. WALLACE: We didn't know these people. Danielson, Whetstone, and Smith, Mother, did we know them?

C. WALLACE: No.

WILLIAMS: So it really was true: nothing existed beyond the fence or the hedges.

C. WALLACE: And you see that right there? The reason it looks like a driveway is they

used a . . . Well, like when a friend of mine came to see me, she'd park there. You couldn't park on this street. There was a fence around everything, and you couldn't get in, so they used that for parking, I guess.

D. WALLACE: What are you talking about? There was no fence here when you lived here.

C. WALLACE: No, I know, David.

D. WALLACE: You just said there was a fence around there.

C. WALLACE: I said there had been a fence there.

D. WALLACE: When who came to visit you?

C. WALLACE: Well, when Millicent Gilpatrick came from Kansas City to see me when I was . . .

D. WALLACE: She couldn't park in the driveway at the house?

C. WALLACE: They still had the fence up.

D. WALLACE: I think you ought to date what you're saying.

C. WALLACE: The fence was still up. She couldn't drive in and she . . .

D. WALLACE: There was no fence here in the thirties and forties.

C. WALLACE: I'm talking when Aunt B. died.

D. WALLACE: You didn't say that.

C. WALLACE: Well, when she died, Millicent came from Kansas City to see me, and I was down here at Aunt May's.

D. WALLACE: You could park there after the fence was put up.

C. WALLACE: And that's where they would . . .

WILLIAMS: I see. So, while you were visiting here . . .

C. WALLACE: Guests would park there, because where else would they park? They couldn't come down the alley and around; they weren't allowed to do that.

D. WALLACE: And, you know, Van Horn was much narrower. It was two lanes.

C. WALLACE: And so that's why it looks like it does, like a driveway.

WILLIAMS: Well, her bushes are getting thinned-out. We'll do the same to George's house once we own it.

C. WALLACE: A lot of people have their houses for sale.

D. WALLACE: That's just in escrow now is all? I mean, nobody is in there?

WILLIAMS: Nobody lives there. They had an estate sale earlier this year.

D. WALLACE: Did you grab anything?

WILLIAMS: Well, no, not from the sale. They returned some things that had come from the big house. Well, I think we've about run out of neighborhood to drive through. You're probably tired of all of this driving around.

C. WALLACE: No, I like it because I haven't seen this part of Independence for a long time, a lot of these parts.

WILLIAMS: It's lunchtime. Are you hungry?

C. WALLACE: Not a bit.

D. WALLACE: Yes, why not? Then we'll go over to the house and do the other stuff. Mother, you said you didn't remember anything. You were absolutely a treasure trove.

C. WALLACE: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: You were.

D. WALLACE: You're sounding tired. Are you all right?

C. WALLACE: Yes, I'm fine.

WILLIAMS: Where would you like to go to lunch?

D. WALLACE: I don't know. Where would you like to go to lunch, Mother?

C. WALLACE: Where I can get a good chocolate milkshake.

WILLIAMS: Raytown? [chuckling]

C. WALLACE: I'd just as soon go to a quickie.

WILLIAMS: There's Sonic.

C. WALLACE: I've never heard of them.

WILLIAMS: HiBoy.

C. WALLACE: Where do you all want to go to lunch?

D. WALLACE: Is there a McDonald's where we can get a milkshake?

C. WALLACE: I'd just as soon go to McDonald's. Do you like McDonald's, Jim?

D. WALLACE: No, you like it. You're the one who wants the milkshake.

WILLIAMS: There's Clinton's down here and they make old-fashioned sodas.

D. WALLACE: Oh, good.

WILLIAMS: The food is not very good.

D. WALLACE: Well, whatever.

WILLIAMS: They have like hamburgers and hot dogs.

D. WALLACE: That's fine.

C. WALLACE: That's fine. I'd just as soon have a hamburger and a milkshake. What would you like?

DAGE: That sounds good to me.

WILLIAMS: We sometimes eat there, but I don't . . .

C. WALLACE: There are two of us back here for . . .

WILLIAMS: They make Cokes the old-fashioned way, and they have sodas and . . .

D. WALLACE: Oh, Clinton's Ice Cream, you mean?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

D. WALLACE: Yes, that's all right.

C. WALLACE: I think that would be fun.

WILLIAMS: Where Harry Truman had his first job.

C. WALLACE: Well, good.

D. WALLACE: But it wasn't in that building though. Was it the same one? I don't think so.

WILLIAMS: It's changed. It was Crown and then . . .

D. WALLACE: It was on the corner, Crown Drug.

WILLIAMS: Right. Is this the hardware store?

D. WALLACE: Not looking like that.

C. WALLACE: Not looking like that.

WILLIAMS: Who would take care of the . . . if something needed to be fixed-up in the house?

C. WALLACE: George.

D. WALLACE: Well, surely they had to have maintenance, Mother, beyond George.

C. WALLACE: Yes, but George did a lot of things.

D. WALLACE: He did?

C. WALLACE: Yes.

D. WALLACE: That was the library right there on the corner.

WILLIAMS: Yes, that's where the library was, on that corner.

D. WALLACE: And that was the grocery store right there, with the yellow bricks—

Sermon's.

WILLIAMS: And this is in the middle of the block on Maple.

D. WALLACE: Yes. You've got all that in your wonderful little maps.

WILLIAMS: Well, we have to go around the block.

D. WALLACE: You can't make a U-turn across painted yellow lines? Who's going to stop you? Your boss is in the car, right?

WILLIAMS: The lady who signed my driver's license.

D. WALLACE: Thirty days without appeal?

C. WALLACE: They're a real toughie on them, aren't they.

END OF INTERVIEW

APPENDIX

1. Truman neighborhood maps, from the 1950 Independence city directory. Harry S Truman NHS files.